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Serial No. 10/562,228
Attorney Docket No. 095309.57265US

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas cleaning system for an internal combustion engine with at least one catalytically active component, wherein a catalytically active coating of the catalytically active component comprises:

at least a first region with a high light-off temperature and a high temperature resistance; and

at least a second region with a low light-off temperature and a reduced temperature resistance relative to the first region; wherein,

said catalytically active coating is applied onto a support body material of the catalytically active component, from an intake region to a discharge region of the catalytically active component, in the form of a gradient such that

the first region of the catalytically active coating predominates in the intake region of the catalytically active component; and

the second region of the catalytically active coating predominates in the discharge region of the catalytically active component; and

an ~~the~~ exhaust-gas-side surface of the catalytically active coating in an intake region of the at least one catalytically active component has at least a partial diffusion layer or is at least partially covered by a diffusion layer.

2. (Currently amended) The system ~~apparatus~~ according to claim 1, wherein the first region, has a lower specific noble metal content or ~~and/or~~ a

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larger noble metal particle diameter than the second region or a lower specific noble metal content and a larger noble metal particle diameter than the second region .

3. (Currently amended) The system apparatus according to claim 2, wherein:

cell density in the intake region of the catalytically active component is lower than in a discharge region of the catalytically active component.

4. (Currently amended) The system apparatus according to claim 3, wherein:

the intake region of the catalytically active component is configured with a support material with a high specific heat capacity; and

in its discharge region, the catalytically active component has a support material with low specific heat capacity.

5. (Currently amended) The system apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

the catalytically active component has a cone shape.

6. (Currently amended) The system apparatus according to claim 5, wherein:

the catalytically active coating is multiple layered;

individual layers have a differing composition;

the first region is oriented toward the an exhaust-gas side; and

the second region is applied on a side away from the exhaust gas.

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7. (Currently amended) The system apparatus according to claim 6, wherein:

the catalytically active coating is applied in the form of a gradient in either or both of the first or second regions or both the first and second regions as well as a diffusion layer ;

predominantly the region with high light-off temperature is applied in the intake region of the catalytically active component; and

predominantly the second region is applied in the discharge region of the catalytically active component.

8. (Currently amended) The system apparatus according to claim 5, wherein:

the catalytically active coating has at least predominantly the second region.